



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SUMMER EDITION JULY 2012



The Presidents Report regarding STAMPEX 2012

One of the conditions of remaining on the judging circuit is to compete at a federation level or above every five years. As I have been heavily involved in the promotion of Open Class Philately I was persuaded that I should enter Stampex 2012. My lottery material went with me to congress last year and an eminent judge informed me that, although I had the material, my presentation needed improvement and a redesign. I thought long and hard over whether I wanted to enter and decided that nothing ventured, nothing gained. If my marks were poor then I knew that I would not need to enter again and restrict future entries to federation competitions. Knowing that I would be in hospital and in recovery during Stampex made life even more complicated as I set out my plans for a complete rewrite of 16 sheets. The pressure was on especially as I realised that there was more to learn about my material and that the postal markings needed to be researched in detail. After many false attempts I felt that I had reached the end only to realise that my exhibition protectors were not up to standard but, after a trip to London, all was ready. Entry form completed, cheque for £10 and the 16 sheets ready I met the deadline in good time and rushed home ready for the next days visit to hospital and the dreaded knee operation. Stampex came but I was confined to home and unable to attend which was so disappointing. I had to sit and hope that someone would inform me of my results. An email arrived telling me that I had achieved a Vermeil award with 78 marks. (continued on page 3)

Year 45

Issue 117

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The Three Wise Men at the
auction evening in April

*For further information on
anything in this newsletter
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or

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Spring Photo Gallery



The Auction Bidders



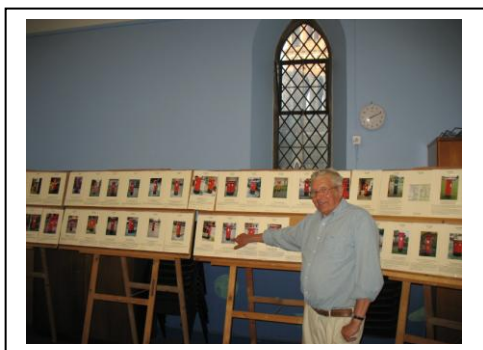
Martins 'How To' session



David Beddoes mini Auction



'Give Peace a Chance' presentation
with Grace Davies



Farnham and District visit by Graeme and Martin



'What I Collect'
All seems very
interesting



The 'five-sheeters' on June 21st

Presidents report continued.

The entry was on “The English State Lotteries 1566-1826” and the judge’s comment was “*lovely material on an interesting topic which deserves to be developed into a multi-frame exhibit. Great ending*”. My hopes of a ‘one off’ appear to have been extinguished and I have been informed that, as I have achieved 78 marks, I should consider international exhibiting. I do not think so but there was a time when I would have been scared to enter a club competition! There is no doubt that I have learned a lot from this entry and, after a few months rest, may be invigorated to take on board the judges comments more fully, find that more elusive material, and try again.

John Baron. President.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to our long-standing secretary Graeme Stewart who has been awarded the A.B.P.S “Award of Merit” 2012 for services to Philately.

Further details are not available at present but the award will be presented at the A.G.M. in September.

PAST EVENTS

April

The Monday meeting on the 2nd had ‘The Olympics’ as the theme and 17 members were present with apologies from Ian and Juliet Keel and Pauline and Richard Badger.

Ben Hampton showed some first-day covers of the 24th Olympiad in 1988 and of rifle shooting in particular. In the small-bore (0.22) event, the top score was 598 out of 600 and the record of a 600 score is still held by Christian Klees at the Atlanta games.

Tony Jordan brought some Walt Disney Olympic stamps plus some from Laos, Poland, the Congo and 2 nice MS sheets of horse dressage events.

Ann Martin showed some UK issues including those from 2005 when we won the bid for 2012 and also some 2012 issues for the Olympics and Para-Olympics.

To complete the first half John Baxter brought all 39 Canadian Olympic stamps from ‘92 in Barcelona, ‘96 in Athens and 1948 in UK, plus 2 maxi sheets of the sculpture stamps.

The second half was taken up with a general discussion (as you do) and a mini-auction from David Beddoes.

The Society Auction was held on Thursday 19th April. There were 476 lots on view and catalogues had been sent out. There were 26 members and visitors present for the auction. Tony Jordan was the auctioneer, the scrutineer was David Beddoes and the receipts and invoicing for purchasers was performed by Barney Bardsley while in the background financial aspects were recorded by Mike Ward. Six persons submitted lots for the auction including Dave Tanner with the Club Stamps. 89 countries were represented plus thematic and postal history items.

There were 17 bidders and 121 lots were sold to bidders, both postal and in house, with one guest bidder having a very good evening indeed! The sales realised a total of £978.00.

This resulted in an income to the Society of £83.57.

A very successful evening and thank you to all the organisers and assistants on the night that put in a lot of hard work.

May

On Monday 14th, by popular request, Martin Farr presented a continuation of how to layout your sheets for a presentation or personal usage. He used the projector system to give a large view and showed how to lay out a page for personal usage, an exhibit or for a competition.

He used Windows XP as the computer programme and answered many questions as the session went on.

Martin said that he would issue a handout out of the sequences that he went through and also a second one that would cover Windows 7. These have now been issued.

After coffee and a general chat there was a mini-auction of about 60 lots and quite a few were sold.

On the 17th May 22 members were treated to a wonderful display of material by Grace Davies on the theme "Give Peace a Chance".

After a great introduction by our president John Baron, Grace thanked us all for a warm welcome and then spoke about the reasons why she started on the `Peace` subject – she loved it and found it very interesting which is all part of the hobby. (on the side-table were further exhibits and the sheets from her recent Gold award at Thematica)

Part one covered the end of the Boer war, WW1 and WW2 and their peace conferences with sets of items from around the world including stamps, covers, letters to and from peace conferences. Relevant very interesting material about the inception of the League of Nations, the United Nations on 25th April 1945, the first UN issues of 1951 and a great collection of peace stamps from around the world together with their symbols – Doves and Olive branches etc. Grace then finished off part 1 with material of and about people who did not get a Nobel Peace prize including Gandhi.

Part 2 was devoted to Alfred Nobel, his life and works and the Peace prize inception of 1901 when it was first awarded to Henry Dunant the founder of the Red Cross.

Much material was displayed about the following who received the award - 1906 Roosevelt, 1971 the Red Cross committee, 1925 Chamberlain, 1947 The Quakers council, 1952 Albert Schweitzer, '64 Martin Luther King, '93 Nelson Mandela, '89 the Dalai Llama, '84 Desmond Tutu, '77 Amnesty International '79 Mother Theresa, '91 Aung Sang Suu Kyi and '07 Al Gore.

The talks and displays were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. A great evenings entertainment.

On the 28th May Graeme and Martin went cross-country to the Farnham and District Society to give talks on Post-boxes and Chinese legends. When we eventually found the place it was upstairs in a church hall. (we had been past it twice already). Very nice display boards (they wouldn't sell them) and a small but appreciative audience. Lots of questions and feedback which was nice and responsive.

June

`How and What I Collect` was the theme for Monday the 12th and there were 15 members present. Add together all the years of stamp collecting of the members who gave displays and you would probably get at least five centuries! We learned that most members had begun collecting in childhood (when most had conkers in their pockets) but, most disturbingly, most had given up collecting GB within the last few years.

Comments like `I realised that the Post Office were conning us with far too many new issues`, `The rubbish they are issuing`, The album is worth more than the stamps`, `I collected GB until 2000 when I said goodbye to commems like most of us, reflected the general disillusionment. Several of the ten presenters stressed that `I only collect what I really like` and `If I like it, I get it and if I see another and it's cheap I get another one`

Those that showed their items were – John Taylor, David Beddoes, John Findlater, Glyn Slater, Jerry Wilson, Dave Tanner, Ben Hampton, Tony Jordan, Ian Keel and Mike Gurr – It would appear that I missed a good afternoon display and discussion.

Presentations varied from highly-polished, ready for competition to work in progress and many explained how you start pursuing one path which then leads to another and branches off to yet another. Everyone seemed to share the excitement on continually renewing their areas of interest.

A somewhat common sombre theme was `What happens to my collection when I'm gone?`. Generally kids are just not interested. One solution seemed to be to leave it to a good charity who would auction the stamps as collections – or to a museum maybe.

On Thursday June 21st the subject for the evening was `Five sheets or 50p`. There were 21 members present, some of whom paid up their 50p while the rest displayed their sheets for the evening.

To start the displays Martin Farr showed several sheets of the story behind the Mutiny on the Bounty and a couple about the Bayeux Tapestry.

Ian Keel put up several items from and of the Red Cross and from their visit to Castiglione in Italy.

Ben Hampton displayed sheets of the 1986 football World Cup – the `Hand of God` - and issues from Malta, Cyprus and the UK.

Tony Jordan showed some lovely commemorative covers of the life and times of Queen Victoria that covered many of the events occurring during her reign.

Graeme Stewart showed us some covers and stamps of the birds seen at the Thatcham lakes discovery centre.

Mike Gurr also showed us some bird covers and stamps but this time a nice selection all about the peregrine falcon.

Barry Smith displayed some quite rare covers of Tin Can Island – Niafou`ou – where the mail was thrown off of the ship in tin cans into small boats and vice versa.

Then, to finish off the first half Mike Smith showed some of the errors, flaws and overprints from Botswana and Bechuanaland.

After the tea-break Alan Cross showed us some of his collection of Australian `Kangaroo` issues re watermarks etc and some very early issues of the same.

Pat Smith put up some very early postcards of `Ducks`-including Donald Duck –how could he be left out?

Dave Tanner displayed some very early US airmails – earliest 1918 and 1923 night flight from New York to San Fransisco.

Jerry Wilson showed the early days of Rhodesia and the changes of territory into Zimbabwe plus some `inflated` banknotes as the currency devalued.

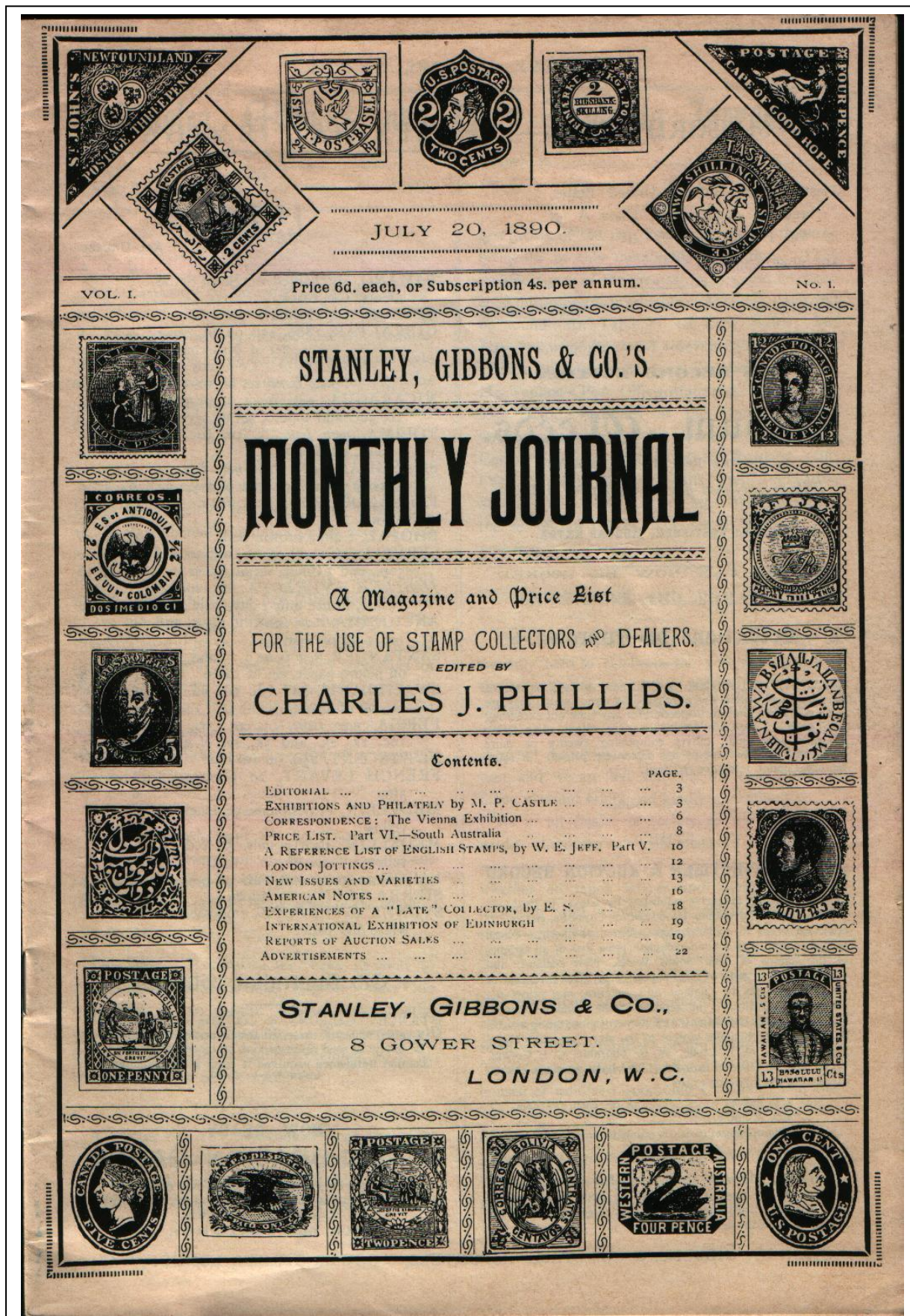
Louise Funnell spoke and showed items about the French Red Cross Fund and the designs of Pierre Gandon.

Graeme put up a second set of items - postcards and envelopes illustrating the very early days of Newbury and Thatcham.

And finally Martin showed some sheets about `Time` and finished with a birth certificate that had been issued in Moscow by the State and the Anglican church of St Andrews for a David Lewis. He was born on 21st Dec. 1912 or 3rd Jan 1913 and baptized on 16th June 1913 or 29th June 1913. This was on account of the Gregorian calendar not being adopted by the Russian state until 1921 when 13 days correction was required and so the certificate showed both sets of dates.

What a wide, varied and very entertaining afternoon – well done everyone.

An image of the very first Stanley Gibbons monthly journal of July 20 1890.



I happen to have a copy of this journal and will publish some of the interesting inside pages soon.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

****The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International****

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

New A very good site for thematics of the world at www.france-international

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

June 19 th	Charles Dickens	June 27 th	Olympic Smiler sheet
June 27 th	Scotland definitives	July 27 th	Olympic Games (welcome)
July/August	Gold medal winners	August 27 th	Retail booklet – Scottish locomotives
August 27 th	Paralympic welcome	September 25 th	Olympic memories
	September 28 th	Pictorial Faststamps – cattle	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Society Subscriptions are overdue at the new cost of £10.00. Please make any cheque out to Thatcham and District Philatelic Society (or TDPS will do), and send it to the treasurer Mike Ward or contact him or a committee member at any club meeting.

Sales and Wants

You are able to advertise your items for sale or your `wants` on this page. Please feel free to contact the editor, Martin Farr, at club meetings, by email or by `phone.

Picture Post Magazines for sale. All in cellophane and in excellent condition. The following issue dates are available and are offered at £4 each but will haggle – 4th June 1949, 4th February 1950, 15th July 1950 9th June 1951 and 6th October 1951. Contact the editor, Martin Farr, if you are interested

A MUST-VISIT WEBSITE

For those that like a bit of humour connected to stamp collecting then do go to the **Avion Thematics** website (listed above) and on the title page click on `Features`. The just select the theme(s) you want and enjoy.

It was all compiled by his wife – what a good idea – have fun. Ideas for Thematic subjects?

New Contacts

The first is an elderly gentleman (we guess) of eastern European origin who has a large amount of mainly used stamps that he wishes to sell as he is `downsizing` his collection of Germany, Poland and Sweden.

He will sell at 16% of SG and has a lot of hi-value Germany. If you are interested then contact him on 01582 661305 and the name is Stan.

The second person is a Canadian collector who has started again after 50 years or so and realises that he is completely out of date re. GB. He is looking to trade used GB for used Canadian – complete sets, some souvenir sheets and 1000`s of used items. Contact Mark Triplett as follows –

mark.triplett@telus.net

More Exchanges

In medieval times tally sticks formed an essential part of business transactions, and the word `tally` has come to mean keeping score and comes from the latin talea – a rod or stick. The use of notched sticks became common place to keep tabs on transactions. The notches were carved on sticks by hand and represented quantities of goods etc. The stick was then split in two by a twist to give it an irregular split and the broad butt end was called the stock and the smaller piece the foil. They could only be matched together. The stock was given to the person who paid for the cargo or goods as a receipt. Often the wooden stocks were traded in a stock exchange in advance of the arrival of the goods – an early futures market.

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

TDPS Club Stamps are now being looked after by Dave Tanner who is present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall and at Westbex.

Accessories. Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount. So please give him your orders.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467 or see him at club meetings.

Future Programme and Events

Monday 2nd July **The Monday Cup competition**
Three sheets entry requirement of any single subject you choose.
Thursday 19th July **`The Postal History of Newbury and Thatcham`**
a `not to be missed` talk and display by Sue Hopson.

There is no Monday meeting in August

Thursday 16th August **`Exploration and Conquest`**. Bring along your material to display.

Monday 3rd September **`The Titanic`** with Phillip Cant. Should be very good.
Thursday 20th September **A.G.M. and Social evening** with a mini auction.
September 26th-29th **Autumn Stampex** at the Business design centre Islington.

Monday 1st October **Postcards** that you collect or just like.
Saturday 13th October **34th Annual STAMP FAIR** at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham
from 10am to 4pm.

In conjunction with the Thatcham Festival of Arts.
Thursday 18th October **`Gibraltar Thro` Philately`** with guest speaker Colin Searle.
Saturday 20th October **Hampex 2012** at Wickham Community centre.

Monday meetings are held in the Council Chambers (behind the library) from 2pm – 4.30pm
Thursday meetings are held in the Memorial Hall (by the tennis courts) from 7.30pm – 10pm

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01235 820120
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Ian Keel	01488 681500
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Archivist	Julia Wilson
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Committee

Ann Martin	01488 682728
Nathan Gregory	
Tony Hillier	01635 864848
Colin Bartholomew	01635 865457
Reg Rhodes	01635 865721

Westbex	Will Roberts	Publicity	Martin Farr
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